

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 10.

Please add claims 20 and 21.

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (Currently amended) A connecting device adapted-for providing an optical connection between an apparatus ~~comprising~~having a plurality of apparatus-ports for receiving and/or sending optical signals, and ~~at least one optical fiber being coupled to a connector, the connecting device comprises~~comprising:

a support plate supporting ~~at least two~~a plurality of adapters, ~~wherein each of said plurality of adapters~~includes an adapter contact adapted-for providing a connection with one of ~~the~~said plurality of apparatus ports, and a connector contact adapted-for providing a connection with ~~the~~said connector; and

a locking device for maintaining a fixed position between said plurality of adapters and said plurality of ports, wherein said support plate includes a member that interfaces with said locking device to activate said locking device.

2. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said support plate provides a grip for substantially concurrently contacting all of ~~its~~said plurality of adapters with ~~the~~-respective apparatus-ports of ~~said~~ plurality of ports to be contacted.

3. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said adapter contacts and ~~the~~apparatussaid plurality of ports ~~are adapted for providing~~provide a plug connection.

4. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein  
~~thesaid connector contacts and thesaid connectors are adapted for providing provide a connection selected from the group consisting of:~~ a plug ~~connection~~and/or, a screw connection, and a combination thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein:  
~~thesaid support plate supports at least two said plurality of adapters, and all of said plurality of adapters of thesaid support plate are arranged in a straight line.~~

6. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein  
further comprising a grip provided by two opposing end portions of thesaid support plate provide the grip.

7. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 16, wherein  
~~thesaid end portions and thesaid at least two adapters are arranged in a straight line.~~

8. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein:  
~~thesaid adapter contacts of at least two said plurality of adapters are adapted for the a port type selected from the group consisting of: the same apparatus port type, and/or the adapter contacts of at least two adapters are adapted for different apparatus port types, and/or a combination thereof, and thesaid connector contacts of at least two said plurality of adapters are adapted for a connector type selected from the group consisting of: the same connector type, and/or the connector contacts of at least two adapters are adapted for different connector types, and a combination thereof.~~

9. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein at least one adapter of said plurality of adapters is adapted for a connector and port selected from the group consisting of: a single-mode connector and apparatus port,

~~and/or at least one adapter is adapted for a multi-mode connector and apparatus port, and a combination thereof.~~

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein:  
~~at least one of the said plurality of adapters is provided with such asaid locking device, and~~  
~~the said support plate is provided for simultaneously adjusting the activates each~~  
~~said locking devices of all of its adapters between a locking state and a~~  
~~releasing state.~~

12. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein:  
~~each said locking device comprises includes~~ at least one catching member mounted  
~~at the on one of said plurality of adapters~~ and movable between a locking  
position and a release position,  
~~in the locking position the said catching member embraces a pin of the said~~  
~~apparatus port when in said locking position, and~~  
~~in the release position the said catching member releases the said pin when in said~~  
~~release position.~~

13. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 12, wherein  
~~the said locking device comprises a release and/or locking mechanism adapted for~~  
~~providing is activated by said member of said support plate to move said catching~~  
~~member from the said release position and/or the to said locking position, and wherein~~  
~~the said locking device is de-activated by said member of said support plate to move said~~  
~~catching member from said locking position to said release position by activating the~~  
~~release and/or locking mechanism, and/or the locking device is adapted for providing~~  
~~the release position and/or the locking position passively by plugging the connecting~~  
~~device or by pulling the connecting device, respectively.~~

14. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein ~~theat least one of said plurality of adapters is provided for receiving receives~~ at least one bare fiber.

15. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein said connector is coupled to an optical fiber, theand wherein said support plate is provided withincludes a receptacle adapted for mounting a cable channel ~~receiving, protecting and guiding~~that receives, protects and guides the fiberssaid optical fiber of eachsaid connecting device.

16. (Currently amended) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein:  
each adapter of said plurality of adapters is movably mounted on said support plate relative to thesaid support plate and parallel to thea plugging direction  
movably mounted at the support plate,  
thesaid support plate comprisesmember is at least one actuating member co-operating with at least one catching member of thesaid adapter,  
a plug in movement of thesaid support plate pushes thesaid at least one actuating member ~~for urging the to urge~~ said respective at least one catching member into itsa locking position, and  
a plug off movement of thesaid support plate pulls thesaid at least one actuating member ~~for releasing to release~~ thesaid at least one respective catching member into itsa release position.

17. (Currently amended) A system, ~~in particular a signal processing system, comprising:~~  
at least one apparatus comprisinghaving a plurality of apparatus-ports for receiving and/or sending optical signals;  
a plurality of optical fibers each being coupled to a connectors;  
at least one connecting device adapted for providing optical connections between at least two of said plurality of apparatus-ports and at least two of said plurality of connectors, wherein thesaid connecting device comprisesincludes

a support plate supporting ~~at least two~~a plurality of adapters, and wherein each of said plurality of adapters comprisesincludes an adapter contact adapted for providing a connection with one of thesaid plurality of apparatus ports, and a connector contact adapted for providing a connection with one of said plurality of connectors; and

a locking device for maintaining a fixed position between said plurality of adapters and said plurality of ports, wherein said support plate includes a member that interfaces with said locking device to activate said locking device.

18. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein all of said plurality of apparatus ports assigned to the same connecting device are arranged in a straight line.

19. (Currently amended) A system for mounting a connecting device, wherein said connecting device adapted for providingprovides an optical connection between an apparatus comprisinghaving a plurality of apparatus ports for receiving and/or sending optical signals, and ~~at least one optical fiber being coupled to a connector, wherein the~~said connecting device comprisesincludes a support plate supporting ~~at least two~~a plurality of adapters, wherein each adapter comprisesincludes an adapter contact adapted for providing a connection with one of thesaid plurality of apparatus ports and a connector contact adapted for providing a connection with thesaid connector, wherein said connecting device includes a locking device for maintaining a fixed position between said plurality of adapters and said plurality of ports, and wherein said support plate includes a member that interfaces with said locking device to activate said locking device, said system comprising components selected from the group consisting of:

at least two types of support plates selected from the group consisting of: support plates adapted for different types of adapters, and/orsupport plates adapted for different numbers of adapters, and/or a combination thereof,

at least two types of adapters selected from the group consisting of: adapters adapted for different connectors, and/oradapters adapted for different apparatus ports, and a combination thereof, and

a combination thereof.

20. (New) The connecting device according to claim 12, wherein said locking device is passively activated to said locking position by plugging-in said connecting device, and wherein said locking device is passively de-activated to said release position by pulling said connecting device.

21. (New) The connecting device according to claim 1, wherein said member also interfaces with said locking device to de-activate said locking device.